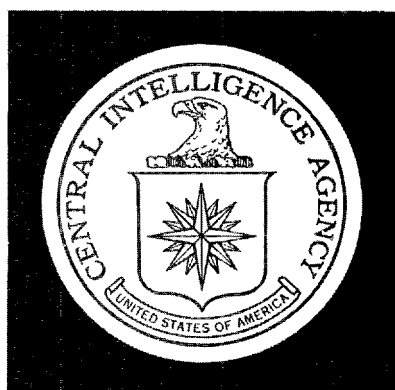


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

State Department review
completed

NSA review completed

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6 January 1967

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Information as of 1600
6 January 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Hanoi has called Western news reports of Harrison Salisbury's interview with Pham Van Dong "tendentious commentaries" and affirmed that the DRV premier told the New York Times editor that the four points remain the basis for a settlement of the war.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: US Marines, in a coordinated operation with South Vietnamese Marines, have begun an operation in the Mekong Delta (Para. 1). The airfield at Pleiku came under mortar attack early on 7 January (Para. 2). Two company-size enemy attacks against ARVN units on 5 January resulted in 24 killed (Paras. 3-4). US Marines directed artillery fire against North Vietnamese soldiers in the DMZ (Para. 6). The weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 7).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam: Further labor difficulties on the Saigon docks are possible on 30 January, when business contracts between the US Army and Vietnamese stevedore companies are due to expire (Paras. 1-2).

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: The North Vietnamese lost two more MIG-21s on 6 January (Paras. 1-2).

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

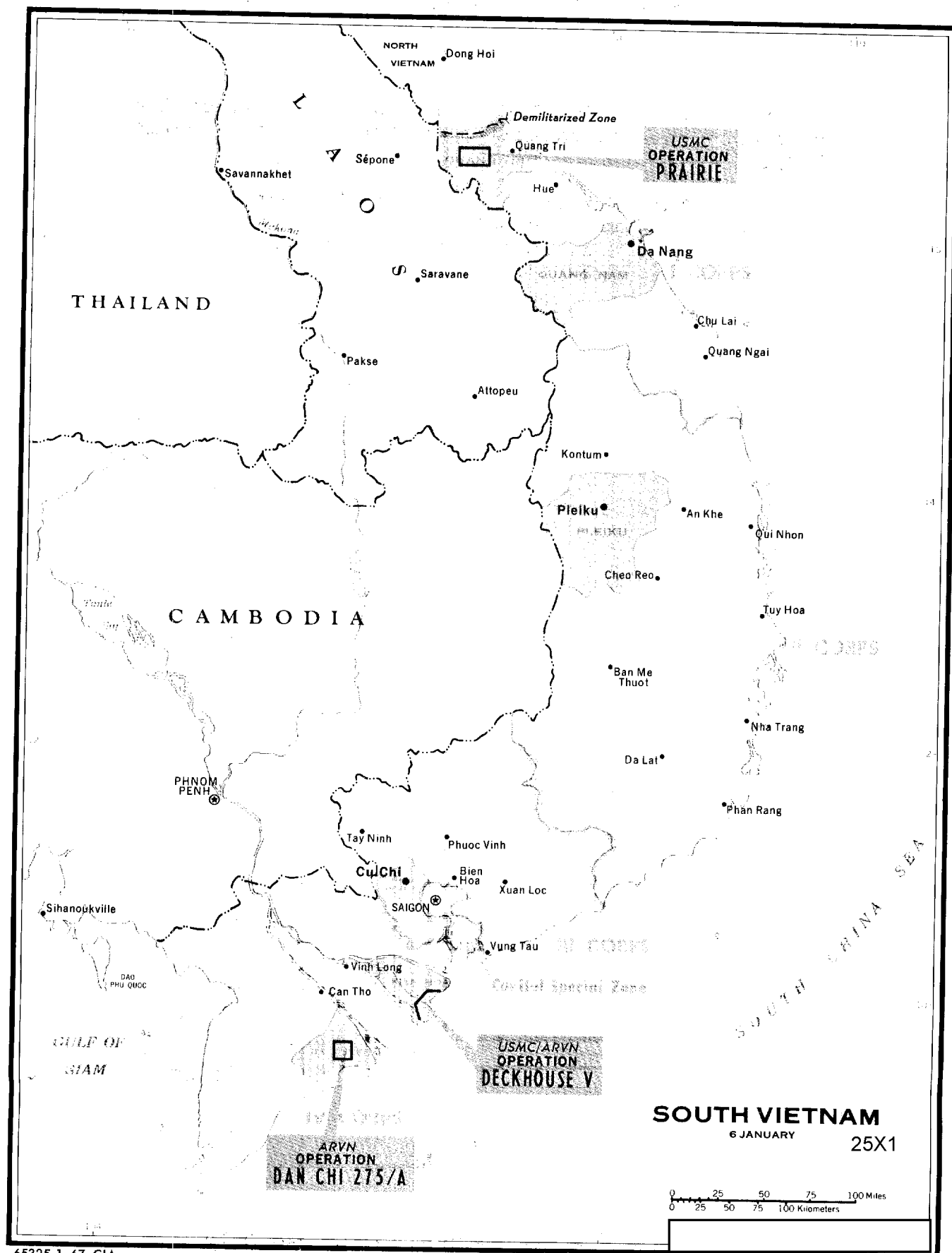
V. Communist Political Developments: Hanoi has called Western news reports of Salisbury's interview with Pham Van Dong "tendentious commentaries" (Paras. 1-2).

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VI. Other Major Aspects: Thailand will send a reinforced combat battalion to South Vietnam (Paras. 1-2).

NOTE: The graphics on Weekly South Vietnam Battle Statistics will appear in the issue of 8 January.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. A combined US Marine and South Vietnamese Marine operation--DECKHOUSE V--was initiated on 6 January in the Mekong Delta. The operation began with an amphibious assault followed by helicopter landings in Kien Hoa Province, 62 miles south of Saigon. The one battalion of US Marines and the two battalions of South Vietnamese Marines participating in this operation reported no initial contact with enemy forces.

2. The airfield at Pleiku was fired upon by enemy mortars early on 7 January. Initial reports indicate 50 mortar rounds struck in the area of Camp Holloway, a US Army installation. A reaction force was reported to have made contact with the enemy. No reports of damage or casualties sustained during the ten-minute attack have yet been received.

3. Eighteen South Vietnamese Regular Force troops were killed early on 6 January when their observation post ten miles south of Cu Chi in Hau Nghia Province was attacked by an estimated company-size Communist force. A reaction force was dispatched to support the outpost. Sixteen enemy soldiers were killed. South Vietnamese losses also included 15 wounded and nine missing.

4. Another company-size Communist force attacked a South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) patrol early on 6 January about 12 miles southeast of Da Nang in Quang Nam Province. The ARVN patrol lost six killed, seven wounded, and one missing. Enemy losses are unknown.

5. ARVN search-and-destroy operation DAN CHI 275/A--a one-day operation conducted on 5 January about 95 miles southwest of Saigon in Ba Xuyen Province--resulted in 23 Viet Cong killed. Enemy losses also included two captured, 22 suspects detained, and three weapons seized. There were no friendly casualties.

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6. US Marines, taking part in Operation PRAIRIE in northernmost Quang Tri Province, directed artillery fire against a North Vietnamese force along the southern edge of the Demilitarized Zone on 5 January. The enemy force was moving to a new position astride infiltration routes into South Vietnam. At least six Communist soldiers were killed by the artillery barrage; there were no American casualties.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

7. The week of 25-31 December compared with 18-24 December:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
18-24 Dec	21	0	1
25-31 Dec	27	0	0

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
18-24 Dec	3	440	30
25-31 Dec	1	397	31

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
18-24 Dec	29	19	218	757
25-31 Dec	27	39	154	675

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II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>18-24 Dec</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>18-24 Dec</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>
Killed	1,038	882	203	146
Wounded	-----	---	477	385
Missing/ Captured	<u>198</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTALS	1,236	995	717	545

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>18-24 Dec</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>18-24 Dec</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>
Killed	109	128	5	3
Wounded	571	630	29	9
Missing/ Captured	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	684	758	34	12

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>18-24 Dec</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>18-24 Dec</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>
Individual	325	Not	136	89
Crew-Served	<u>11</u>	Reported	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	336		138	89

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The US Embassy continues to receive information that the recent Vietnamese stevedore strike in Saigon had many causes other than intra-union politics, and almost certainly included the machinations of the stevedore companies. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the companies allotted partial pay to strikers during the walkout. On more than one occasion, stevedore company officials have hinted broadly that the labor troubles of the US Army would be over if it renewed its business contracts on terms favorable to the present stevedore companies.

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2. [REDACTED] another labor flare-up can be expected on 30 January, when US Army contracts with the stevedore companies are due to expire. If the managements of the stevedore companies are in collusion with the dockworkers union as has been suggested, then labor troubles are probable, providing that business contracts have not been renegotiated in a manner satisfactory to the companies by that date.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. Two North Vietnamese MIG-21s were downed 30 miles northwest of Hanoi on 6 January, decreasing the estimated DRV inventory of the advanced Soviet interceptor to only six aircraft. The Communist fighters were part of a flight of four MIG-21s which encountered an equal number of USAF F4Cs on a MIG search-and-destroy mission. The first MIG was destroyed with a single air-to-air missile. The second crashed when it went into an unrecoverable spin as it sought to avoid air-to-air missiles.

2. Two other MIGs, unidentified as to type, made a pass at an EB-66 electronic countermeasure aircraft 25 miles southwest of Yen Bai, but left the area when challenged by three F4C escort fighters. A USAF RF4C reconnaissance plane was lost to antiaircraft artillery fire 40 miles northwest of Yen Bai, but both crew members were rescued in good condition. The US Navy reported the loss of an F8E 30 miles southwest of Thanh Hoa to automatic weapons fire.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. North Vietnam in a 6 January broadcast accused "some Western radios and newspapers" of releasing "tendentious commentaries" on Harrison Salisbury's account of his interview with Premier Pham Van Dong. Hanoi radio broadcast that it was authorized to state that Pham Van Dong "actually told Mr. Salisbury that the four-point stand of the DRV constitutes the basis of a settlement of the Vietnam problem."

2. This terse statement was clearly intended to discount the impression that Pham Van Dong's remarks to Salisbury signaled a softening in Hanoi's terms for a settlement of the war. By attributing the "tendentious" commentaries to unnamed Western radios and papers, Hanoi avoided casting aspersions upon Salisbury himself. Hanoi's continuing concern over showing in public any sign of softening its position stems in large measure from its belief that such a sign will be interpreted as an indication of weakness which could be exploited by the US.

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. The Thai Government has announced that it will send a reinforced combat battalion to South Vietnam.

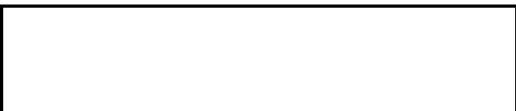
2. Prime Minister Thanom told the press in Bangkok on 6 January that the contingent would be made up of volunteers and that the US would provide financial and material support.

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